

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Technology Transition (OTT) was created by the Secretary of Defense in response to 10 U.S.C. §2515, to serve as a focal point for the domestic technology transfer activities of the Department of Defense. This report, required by the law, summarizes OTT accomplishments for FY 1997.

OTT has played an active role in development and/or execution of technology transfer programs; in development of technology transfer/dual use technology policy; and in coordination of the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information in support of technology transfer. Specifically OTT has:

- Provided leadership and focus for the DoD Technology Transfer Program
- Managed the DoD Dual Use Science and Technology Program
- Prepared a solicitation for a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program focused on technology transfer
- Provided oversight for the DoD Manufacturing Technology Program
- Directed the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information by the Defense Technical Information Center
- Coordinated the Independent Research and Development Program

These activities are discussed in the following pages.

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I. BACKGROUND

Section 2515 of title 10, United States Code (Appendix A) - directs that “The Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Office of the Secretary of Defense an Office of Technology Transition.” It further directs that the head of the office will ensure that the office will monitor research and development (R&D) activities of the Department of Defense, identify R&D activities that result in technological advances that have potential for nondefense commercial applications, serve as a clearinghouse for, coordinate, and actively facilitate the transfer of such technological advances to the private sector, coordinate its activities with the Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce, and provide private firms with assistance in resolving legal issues related to technology transfer. It also directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services, National Security and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives an annual report on the activities of the Office at the same time the budget is submitted to Congress by the President. This report responds to that requirement and is the fifth annual report.

In 1995, the OTT was combined with the Laboratory Management oversight function within the Office of the Director for Defense Research and Engineering. The present Deputy Director for Defense Research and Engineering (Laboratory Management/Technology Transition) is Dr. Lance A. Davis. Dr. Davis reports to the Director, Defense Research and Engineering. In keeping with the integrated planning and process team concept throughout the Department, the activities of the Office are conducted with the consultation and support of personnel in the Military Departments and Defense Agencies.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Congress required establishment of the Office of Technology Transition with, we believe, the underlying assumption that the Defense Laboratories and Defense Agencies are technological powerhouses whose efforts can be brought to bear on commercial technology opportunities at one and the same time that defense critical needs are being addressed. By any objective measure, the technological investments made by the DoD to develop agile, smart weapon systems, training systems, trauma care, etc, have had, in many cases, gigantic impacts in commercial markets.

DoD is working to develop a broad Technology Transfer Program which encompasses the Department as a whole. We are trying to use a common sense approach to this program to break down barriers preventing us from commercializing appropriate technology. We are also trying to expand our horizons to use what is readily available from the commercial sector. By leveraging available resources, we can expand and enhance our capabilities both within our weapons systems and within our processes for making the transfer of technology possible. In doing so, it is recognized that the Nation will achieve an improved return on its national security technology investment and the Nation's industrial competitiveness will be improved. In every case, however, the essential goal is to achieve technically superior, affordable defense systems; those technology efforts which contribute to international competitiveness, but have no defense relevance, are the proper province of other Federal agencies and/or private industry.

The DoD Technology Transfer Program is a dynamic program which we anticipate will contribute to more affordable systems in the future.

III. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

The charter of OTT has been interpreted by the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, to include management of, coordination of, and/or oversight for a variety of activities related to execution of programs substantially related to technology transfer/dual use technology, to development of technology transfer/dual use technology policy, and to scientific and technical information collection and dissemination. These activities will be considered below under the following headings:

- Defense Technology Transfer Management & Oversight
- Dual Use Science and Technology Program
- Small Business Innovation Research
- Manufacturing Technology Program
- Defense Technical Information Center
- Independent Research and Development